

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05460 170857Z
ACTION HA-05

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R 170850Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8627

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 05460

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS : SREF
SUBJECT : BRITISH SHIP WITH BOAT CASE REFUGEES
- REFUSED TO LAND AT KAOHSIUNG

REF: HONG KONG 10990, TAIPEI 5388, HONG 11036,
- 11063, TAIPEI 2005

1. ON AUG. 15TH AT 1600 HOURS REPRESENTING BRITISH

INTERESTS EMBASSY REP DELIVERED LETTER AND MADE ORAL
REPRESENTATION TO MOFA OFFICIAL EXPRESSING CONCERN
FOR THE PLIGHT OF THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHO HAD
BEEN RESCUED FROM THEIR SINKING VESSEL BY THE BRITISH
REGISTERED/OWNED/CANADIAN CHARTERED SHIP "AVON FOREST".
EMBASSY REP POINTED OUT KAOHSIUNG WAS SCHEDULED NEXT
PORT-OF-CALL AND STRESSED HONG KONG'S POINTS.

2. ON WEDNESDAY AUG. 16TH DIRECTOR CONSULAR DEPARTMENT,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REQUESTED CONSULAR
COUNSELOR MEET WITH HIM. THE RESULTS OF THIS 1530
HOURS MEETING ARE:

(A) THE SHIP "AVON FOREST" WOULD BE ALLOWED TO DOCK IN
KAOHSIUNG IN ORDER TO LOAD/UNLOAD ITS CARGO IF THE
SHIPPING AGENT WOULD GIVE ASSURANCES THAT THE INDOCHINESE
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 05460 170857Z

REFUGEES WOULD REMAIN ABOARD SHIP. AGENT INFORMED.

(B) THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WHO ARE OF CHINESE ORIGIN
WOULD BE ALLOWED TO STAY IN TAIWAN IF THEY SO DESIRED.
AGENT INFORMED.

(C) THE DIRECTOR OF CONSULAR AFFAIRS, MOFA, STATED THAT

THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEES NOT OF CHINESE ORIGIN WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE PERMITTED TO LAND. THIS WOULD BE IN KEEPING WITH THE POLICY OF THE ROC GOVERNMENT AS STATED IN RESPONSE TO OUR FIRST INDOCHINESE REFUGEE DEMARCHE IN APRIL 1978. IN THEIR REPLY THEY STATED: "IN RESPONSE TO THE APPEAL MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA HAS DECIDED TO TAKE THE FOLLOWING MEASURES CONCERNING INDOCHINESE REFUGEES:

TEMPORARY SHELTER WILL BE GIVEN BY THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES OF REFUGEES:

(A) REFUGEES ARRIVED (SIC) AT TAIWAN BY SMALL BOATS;

(B) REFUGEES PICKED UP AT SEA BY CHINESE SHIP OR BOATS; AND

(C) INDOCHINESE REFUGEES OF CHINESE ORIGIN PICKED UP AT SEA BY FOREIGN SHIPS WITH ONE OF THE PORTS OF THE PROVINCE OF TAIWAN SCHEDULED AS THE FIRST PORT-OF-CALL".

(SEE TAIPEI 2005).

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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 05460 170857Z

3. OVER 400 INDOCHINESE REFUGEES ON BOARD TAIWAN TRAWLER, CHUN YUAN NO. 2, WERE LANDED IN TAIWAN ON AUG. 14TH. (SEE TAIPEI 5388). AS RESULT OF AUG. 16TH MEETING, IT OUR BELIEF THAT THE GROC IS COMMITTED TO ITS POLICY AS EXPLAINED ABOVE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW ARRIVAL THIS WEEK OF OVER 400 REFUGEES.

4. RE HONG KONG 11063 WILL APPROACH GROC FRIDAY MORNING, AUG. 18TH, AND PRESENT 3-MONTH GUARANTEE OFFER. WILL PROVIDE READING ON TERMS OF REJECTION OF OFFER SHOULD THIS HAPPEN. LET'S HOPE FOR THE BEST. UNGER

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Message Attributes

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